

Prof. Dr. Victor Strat In Memoriam

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Victor Strat was born on August 13, 1926, in Iași, in a family of university professors. His father was the famous Prof. Dr. Constantin Strat, the founder of Iași gastroenterology and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. He attended primary school in Iași, having as teachers I. Simionescu, the father of academician C. Simionescu and I. Costinescu, the father of Professor N. Costinescu, dean of the Faculty of Medicine. He was then a student of the Boarding School "C. Negruzzi" where he had famous teachers: N. I. Popa, Gh. Obreja-Iași, Șt. Vancea, George Ivașcu. The baccalaureate took him in refuge, at the "Alexandru Lahovary" High School from Râmnicu Vâlcea, being ranked first.

Between 1945 to 1951 he attended the courses of the Faculty of General Medicine Iași with eminent professors: Al. Țupa, Ion Iancu, N. Oblu, C. C. Dimitriu, I. Enescu, Vl. Buțureanu, Gh. Chipail, O. Franke, Th. Economist, V. Dobrovici, Gh. Năstase, D. Cornelson.

In December 1947 he became an extern doctor through a contest at the First Surgical Clinic, led by Prof. Dr. Vl. Buțureanu, who represented a model that he followed all his life. Also, in the period 1948-1949, he was a university preparator at the Institute of Anatomy, led by prof. I. Iancu.

From 1949 to 1966 he was assistant professor at the First Surgical Clinic and at the same time (1953-1956) a researcher at the Iași Branch of the Romanian Academy, in a team led by O. Franke. In 1962 he defended his doctorate in medical

sciences with the thesis "The value of splenoportography in portal hypertension", and in 1966 he became adjunct professor. The thesis, the first in the country in this field, based on the experience of over 500 explorations, is an important contribution to assessing the evolutionary stage of liver cirrhosis, splenoportal thrombosis, congenital portal vein stenosis and upper digestive bleeding through esophageal varices.

He went through all the stages of a prestigious university teaching career, becoming, in 1972, a lecturer at the First Surgical Clinic and in 1984, a university professor, head of the clinic (Fig. 1). In 1993 he became a consulting professor, but did not stop working. Thus, in the period 1990-2011 he leads doctorates at University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Grigore T. Popa" Iași, succeeding in promoting 30 medical doctors.

During this beautiful career he was driven by the desire for continuous improvement, in a closed period, contrary to the exchange of experience. In 1964 he attended a specialization course in vascular surgery at Fundeni Hospital (Prof. Voinea Marinescu), in 1969 he did a documentary internship in East Germany (Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig), in 1970 he participated to an exchange of experience at Caritas Hospital Bucharest (Prof. D. Burlui) on portal hypertension issues, and in 1972 he participated in the Paris Gastroenterology Congress as an official delegate.

Prof. Dr. V. Strat had a special teaching activity, with the students of the 4th year of general medicine and in postgraduate education, being loved by students and collaborators. He coordinated the most complete and modern clinic course for fourth-year students, written in the clinic.

He succeeded to form a school of well-trained surgeons, many becoming prestigious teachers (prof. Dr. M. R. Diaconescu, prof. Dr. Șt. Georgescu, prof. Dr. E. Târcoveanu, prof. Dr. Cristian Lupașcu, associate professor Dr. N. Dănilă, associate professor Dr. Costel Bradea, adjunct professor Dr. Alin Vasilescu), primary care physicians and department

heads (Dr. V. Palade, Dr. Elena Cotea, Dr. C. Sandu, Dr. A. Juncu etc.), able to solve the most difficult problems of the specialty.

Prof. Dr. V. Strat had a very rich scientific activity, materialized in 180 papers published in extenso, 156 papers published in volumes of abstracts, 398 oral communications, posters and videos and 12 round tables. The last book written at the age of 95 is entitled "From my memories and my life as a surgeon" and is in the wills of the great professors who left their mark on the Romanian surgery.

Prof. Dr. Victor Strat has participated in numerous national surgery congresses, conferences in Bucharest, Iasi, Constanta, Cluj, Targu Mures, to which are added the participations in the annual scientific sessions organized by University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Grigore T. Popa" Iași and Society of Physicians and Naturalists Iași. He has often contributed directly to the organization of many local scientific events in Moldova, at Piatra Neamț (Reunion of Surgeons of Moldova), Suceava, Huși, Tecuci, Bârlad. Abroad he participated with works in various scientific events: various editions of the Balkan Medical Week in Paris (1977), Athens (1977, 1978), Belgrade (1977), Thessaloniki (1983); Paris (1990), Chisinau (1991), Brussels (1992), Brest (1993). He was elected president of the 19th National Congress of Surgery, which he organized in Iasi, the first and last national congress held in the capital of Moldova.

Prof. Dr. Victor Strat has been a member of national and international scientific societies: honorary member of the Romanian Society of Surgery, founding member of the Romanian Society of Hepatobiliopancreatic Surgery, Society of Physicians and Naturalists Iasi, Balkan Medical Union, Association of Surgeons of Moldova, International Society of Surgery SIC / ISS Basel (1985), Society of Liver, Pancreatic and Biliary Surgery Lund (1987) (founding member); French Association of Surgery (Paris, 1990). He was an active participant in the Surgery Department of Romanian Society of Surgery and Society of Physicians and Naturalists Iași, which he led

as secretary for over 10 years.

For the entire activity he received diplomas of honor and excellence from Romanian Society of Surgery, Iași Medical College; he was professor emeritus of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Grigore T. Popa" Iași.

Surgical activity was very rich, involving almost all areas of surgery, but especially abdominal surgery (digestive, biliary, spleen, portal hypertension). He carried on endocrine surgery (thyroid, parathyroid, APUD system tumors), an old tradition in the clinic, in the thyroid, especially gathering a rich experience and expanding the indications of total thyroidectomy in thyroid cancer. He focused in particular on a functional, conservative surgery, but not without resorting to extensive oncological exercises in special situations.

Receptive to the application in the clinic of new techniques and procedures, he promoted the introduction, since 1983-1984, in collaboration with Prof. C. Stanciu and Prof. C. Daniil, of very recently introduced methods of endoscopy and interventional radiology, putting the bases of these minimally invasive methods in Iasi and in the country.

In 1990 he brought to the clinic the first mechanical suturing machines (Greece), giving free rein to the application of this method. Aware of its value, he promoted the laparoscopic surgery that the collaborators developed. In all these areas, he has introduced with priority in the clinic an important number of topical procedures, many in multidisciplinary collaboration.

The pathology of the spleen preoccupied him in all its aspects. In the field of portal hypertension, in addition to exploring the porto-hepatic circulation system by splenoportography and splenomanometry, he performed the first portosystemic anastomoses. He used endoscopic sclerosis of the esophageal varices, as well as the embolization of the esogastric varices by selective catheterization of the gastric coronary vein (1984) and also the embolization of the splenic vein.

In gallstones, he admitted that the dissolution of gallstones could be practiced by

interventional radiology methods. The first endoscopic sphincterotomies and percutaneous external biliary drainage were performed on cases from First Surgical Clinic. In bile duct cancer, he has applied transparietal biliary drainage since 1983 and transtumoral drilling with stent placement.

In 1984, the first transparietohepatic transtumoral prostheses were introduced. In pancreatic cancer he performed pancreatogastric anastomosis in right pancreatoduodenectomy. Contributed to the widening of the indications for right pancreatoduodenectomy and total pancreatectomy. In acute pancreatitis, he first used the abdominal parietal zipper to control the progression of the lesions. In hepatic abscesses he performed transparietohepatic biliary drainage (1984). In biliary and pancreatic surgery, he performed major surgeries in malignant biliary obstruction and pancreatic cancer.

He had extensive experience in digestive surgery for ulcers, gastric and colorectal cancer, as well as esophagus (stripping esophagectomies, esophagoplasties).

Regarding digestive surgery, he introduced the Taylor method in the treatment of perforated ulcers, limiting to the maximum the practice of gastric resections. He performed vagotomies under the intraoperative control of gastric pH. He was concerned with alkaline reflux gastritis and metaplasia of the gastric mucosa. He provided evidence of gastric ulcer malignancy. He recommended mounting with a Roux loop to prevent alkaline reflux. He performed the first percutaneous gastrostomies. In hiatal hernias he practiced minimally invasive anti-reflux methods. In gastric cancer he was concerned with the development of continuity restoration techniques to improve digestion after total gastrectomy and avoid reflux after subtotal gastrectomy, applying antireflux procedures and gastric reservoir techniques (eg Herfarth procedure and many others). In stenotic esophageal cancer he introduced endoprostheses, endoscopically or intraoperatively. In colon and rectal cancer, in malignant polyposis he performed total colectomies and coloproctec-

tomies or on this occasion performed the Koch bag. He performed intraoperative colonoscopy in degenerated polyposis, as well as intraoperative lavage in emergency conditions. He was one of the first to introduce colon cancer chemotherapy to the clinic.

In peritonitis he performed a wide lavage of the peritoneal cavity, also applied in the extended excision for cancer and intraperitoneal hyperthermic chemotherapy.

In breast cancer, he greatly limited the indications for major mutilating interventions and applied the Chiricuța technique.

In vascular surgery, he performed transluminal angioplasties in arterial stenoses (1983). He also cared for sympathectomy, as well as scalene muscles compression syndromes due to the existence of cervical ribs.

He has special interests in the history of surgery and medicine in general, publishing articles and giving lectures on Ernest Juvara, N. Hortolomei, I. Tănăsescu, Vl. Buțureanu, M. Roux, E. Kocher. He organized documentary exhibitions on the occasion of the centenary of

University of Medicine and Pharmacy Iași "100 years of medical education in Iași, 1879-1979", "Centenary Vl. Buțureanu" (1985 and 2005), "Centenar Constantin Strat" (2005).

Convinced family man, Professor loves music, painting, nature, beauty in all its forms, as well as animals. He was a universal spirit, a true man, of a rare modesty, deeply attached to the First Surgical Clinic, the University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Grigore T. Popa" Iasi, the Romanian Society of Surgery, the Society of Physicians and Naturalists and last, but not least, the family beautiful shaped by his soul.

Along with other great surgical personalities, Professor Victor Strat joins the gallery of those who have contributed to the progress and modernization of surgery in our country. The school he formed is fully grateful to him and will keep a vivid memory of him.

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